

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AF-10 OMB-01 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 291158Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 712

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVI 9625

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PBOR, JO, IS

SUBJECT : JORDANIAN SENSITIVITIES RE HEBRON

REF: AMMAN 6316 NOTAL

1. WE BELIEVE UPI PIECE OF TWO WEEKS AGO BY THALER PURPORTING TO REVEAL DETAILS OF A SECRET US PEACE PLAN FOR MIDDLE EAST MAY, AS REFTEL SUGGESTS, HAVE BEEN AN ISRAELI PLANT.

2. FYI, SECRETARY DID NOT FLY IN HELICOPTER OVER HEBRON AREA DURING HIS OCTOBER VISIT (REFTEL).

3. DESIRE AMONG MANY ISRAELIS TO SEE ENTIRE SOUTHERN PART OF WEST BANK ("JUDEA") INCLUDING HEBRON INCORPORATED INTO ISRAEL IS STRONG. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, DAYAN HIMSELF HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY WELL-INFORMED SOURCES AS INCLINING IN THIS DIRECTION. DAYAN AND OTHER NATIONALISTS IDEALLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL OF WEST BANK ("JUDEA AND SAMARIA") BECOME PART OF ISRAEL, BUT MORE MODERATE NATIONALISTS (INCLUDING, WE BELIEVE, DAYAN) ARE IMPRESSED BY DOVES' ARGUMENT THAT
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ISRAEL CANNOT AFFORD FOR DEMOGRAPHIC REASONS BECAUSE OF

THE DISPARATE JEWISH-ARAB BIRTH RATE TO ADD SO MANY ARABS TO ISRAELI VOTING CITIZENRY. THEREFORE, MODERATE NATIONALISTS SEE RETURN OF NABLUS AREA TO JORDAN, BEING MUCH THE BIGGEST WEST BANK POPULATION CENTER, AS DESIRABLE SOLUTION, LEAVING ROUGHLY HALF OF NORTHERN PART OF WEST BANK AND ALL OF SOUTHERN PART IN ISRAELI HANDS.

4. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL ISRAELI HISTORICAL ATTACHMENT TO ENTIRE AREA, THERE IS SPECIFIC JEWISH RELIGIOUS ATTACHMENT TO HEBRON ITSELF. IRONICALLY, MUSLIMS AND JEWS ARE ATTACHED TO HEBRON FOR THE SAME REASON: ABRAHAM'S TOMB IS THERE. HEBRON IS ONE OF THE FOUR HOLY CITIES OF JUDAISM (THE OTHER THREE, JERUSALEM -- AT LEAST IN PART, SAFED AND TIBERIAS, ARE FORTUNATELY WITHIN ISRAEL'S PRE-1967 BORDERS).

5. WE SUSPECT THAT SETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN RETURNING MOST OF WEST BANK TO JORDAN WHICH DID NOT SAFEGUARD FREE ACCESS FOR ISRAELI TOURISTS AND PILGRIMS TO AT LEAST HEBRON, IF NOT MAY OTHER PARTS OF WEST BANK, WOULD BE VERY HARD INDEED TO SELL TO ISRAELI PUBLIC.

KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL REVERSION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV09625
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973114/aaaaacok.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: AMMAN 6316 NOTAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <16-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : JORDANIAN SENSITIVITIES RE HEBRON
TAGS: PBOR, JO, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005